News release

A forecast for all seasons

20 May 2002

The Met Office has today launched a pioneering, free, on-line information service with rainfall and temperature outlooks for up to four months ahead over the whole globe. This is the first time the weather service is using its expertise to let the public know the odds on what to expect from the weather this season.

Updated each month, these experimental forecasts provide the probability that temperature and rainfall (averaged over a three-month period) will be above or below the climate norm for various regions. For the UK, the predicted outlook to the end of July is that it is likely to be warmer than normal over most areas, but wetter than normal over the western parts of the country.

Mike Davey, manager of the Met Office's seasonal prediction group, said: "These are very different from a daily weather forecast which gives information for a particular place and time: with seasonal forecasts we provide likelihoods for conditions averaged over a few months."

The seasonal outlooks are formulated using the Met Office's state-of-the-art forecasting models.

View the experimental seasonal forecasts

Background to seasonal forecasting

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